

community. Pamela and Matthew have been named New Mexico's top two student volunteers in the 1999 Prudential Spirit of Community Awards program, an annual honor conferred on the most impressive student volunteers in each state, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico.

The program that brought these young role models to our attention—The Prudential Spirit of Community Awards—was created by the Prudential Insurance Company of America in partnership with the National Association of Secondary School Principals in 1995 to impress upon all youth volunteers that their contributions are critically important and highly valued, and to inspire other young people to follow their example. This program is the nation's largest youth recognition effort based solely on community service, with more than 50,000 young people participating.

I applaud Pamela and Matthew for their initiative in seeking to make their community a better place to live, and for the positive impact they have had on the lives of others. They have demonstrated a level of commitment and accomplishment that is truly extraordinary in today's world, and deserve our sincere admiration and respect. Their actions show that young Americans can—and do—play important roles in our communities, and that America's community spirit continues to hold tremendous promise for the future.

I am proud that these two outstanding young people are from the district which I represent, the first district of New Mexico and encourage them to continue to be leaders involved in the improvement of their community.

STATEMENT ON THE IMPEACHMENT PROCEEDINGS

HON. ROBERT A. BRADY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 11, 1999

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I don't think I need to say anything about the facts of this case. The thousands of pages from the Independent Council say it all, and anyone who still thinks there's enough in there to convict the President on Purgery or Obstruction of Justice charges should read them again. I can't add anything to the case the White House council presented, so I won't try. I'm not going to talk about Constitutional Law, except to say that I don't see how the President can be removed from office in this case even if the charges could be proven. While President Clinton is guilty of bad behavior and lack of moral judgment in this issue, he didn't put the country in jeopardy. Instead, I'll tell you about the political lynching that's been going on, how we got here, and why we can't seem to get back to the issues of the people of America.

Ever since I can remember, I have regarded the United States House of Congress with a kind of awe. Throughout my political career I've been impressed by the Representatives on both sides of the House and held them in very high regard. That is, until I was elected as a member of the House, walked through its doors for the first time, and became witness to the most hateful and vicious attack on our Democracy that this country has ever seen; the hijacking of the American Govern-

ment. The Conservative Republicans wanted nothing less than the total destruction of their political enemy, the nationally elected President of our United States. Maybe this sounds partisan, but I'm not here to make friends or win any popularity contests with my fellow Congressmen, I'm here to do what my people asked me to do—represent them. I won't pretend that I am not a staunch Democratic supporter of the President. I'll just give you a little history, tell you what I've seen, you be the judge.

It started in 1992, when a Southern, pro-choice, environmentally minded moderate won the Presidency. The Republican minority in Congress were stunned. This Democratic President did not attempt to win their approval by advocating their issues. In fact, he made hard and fast enemies while he picked apart their proposals and vetoed them. They shouldn't have taken it so personally because the reality is, he didn't make friends with the Democrats either! But it was back then that they decided they had to get rid of him.

In 1994, the Republicans succeeded in taking over the Congress with huge amounts of soft money from large corporations, rich special interest groups, and other ultra-conservative organizations. Even with their new Majority in the House, the President continued to win the political fights and continued to gain favor in the hearts and minds of the voters. While the new Majority tried to shut down the government, the President stood for issues of National concern such as education and social security. In effect, even though they had the House, they still lost. Now, they decided, it was time to make a move for the political assassination of their enemy.

With the right wing organization behind them, the House Conservatives tried a variety of tactics, each one unsuccessful. They sought to indict him as a criminal. They proceeded to dredge up and spin allegations of illegal involvement by either President or First Lady, (whitewater, travelgate, filegate, etc. . . .) They knew that with the right amount of pressure and enough fuel, they could get the Attorney General to grant their request for a Special Prosecutor (a Republican zealot of their choice) to "get him". With the help of the media, (there's no news like bad news involving the President), they succeeded.

Just short of four years and forty million tax dollars later, not a single shred of indictable evidence was uncovered. This is incredible when you consider that EVERY stone had been unturned. This was also a serious problem for the Republican since they spent all that time and money with nothing to show for it and, in spite of the media storm they produced, the President's job approval rating was still climbing! Then BINGO! They got lucky.

In walks that paragon of American virtue that we all know and love, Ms. Linda Tripp, with juicy tales of her illegally taped conversations with the now famous Monica. Although this wasn't exactly the stuff that "High Crimes and Misdemeanors" are made of, it's still all they had, so they had to make it work. The new leader of the effort to destroy the President, the so-called "independent" council, devised a plan to work with the lawyers on the Jones civil case and use the illegally obtained information to set a trap for the President! By now, you know the rest of the story, so I won't get into the details except to say that no other citizen of this country would ever be subject to

such an outrageous and illegal bastardization of the American system of justice. It is only the right wing conspiracy, in justification of their destructive pursuit, who would have you believe this is simply "equal justice under the law".

From almost the minute the case was placed in the hands of the Congress it became clear to me that I was no longer part of a "Representative" body. The American people, the people who voted and sent us here, were left completely out of the process. Their "Representatives" decided to pursue their OWN agenda instead and, with the approval of their counterparts in the Senate, used their majority muscle and pushed it through the House. No debate, no opposing arguments considered, no witnesses needed. Don't be fooled by the political theater you saw on C-Span. That was just a show to have you think we were doing our constitutional duty. In fact, Mr. HYDE even told you at one point that we shouldn't be concerned with the President's "removal from office". He said that's not what impeachment means, and that a vote in favor of the Articles didn't mean that we thought the President should be removed from office. Did you believe that? Well it may be true. They don't have to actually remove him to destroy his presidency, and that IS their primary goal.

To be fair, some of my colleagues on the other side of the aisle were interested in doing the right thing and giving this issue the level of consideration it warranted. You might have heard about this "secret evidence" that was "shown" to those undecided voters that "convinced" them to vote in favor of the Impeachment Articles. I can tell you that there was no evidence, but it certainly was secret. They were presented with threats that they would lose their special committee positions unless they towed the Party line. They obeyed, and two Articles of Impeachment were pushed through the House on a strictly partisan vote in spite of the President's consistently high job approval ratings.

Into the House of the Senate marched the 13 Conservative Managers, with their own special "rule of law" and their own version of "truth and justice", as self proclaimed "Representatives of the People". What people? Certainly not the majority of the American people. They continued to support the President. They don't want him removed from office. They know his character is flawed, and while the scandal is fund to watch on TV, they trust him to do his job because they know he has the best interests in his heart. In spite of the very best efforts to ruin him, the Conservative Republicans have failed.

This brings us to our current dilemma. The Conservatives have a problem. We need to end this and gain back the respect of the American people but how can THEY get out of this gracefully? How can the Conservative Senators save face for their Congressional counterparts? It seems that the Republicans finally have their exit strategy. They will refuse to exit. They will take their chances and keep this going as long as they possibly can with the hope that they will publicly destroy the President and the Democratic party. Even now, knowing that the President will not be removed from office by the required 2/3rds margin, they will attempt to use their 51% majority to continue beating their dead horse, allowing the House managers to run the show. If this goes on long enough, it doesn't matter if the

final vote is not enough to remove Clinton or not. Before they are finished, they will have gone as far as they can by any means possible (witnesses, furthering the independent investigation into any other areas they can find and lots and lots of press) to publicly destroy and defame Clinton.

We have a problem, because with the 51% that the Senate requires to pass each step of the way short of the removal vote, the same railroading that took place in the Congress will take place in the Senate. My fear is that this can only be stopped by the next election but by then, the ensuing media storm and the Republican spin doctors will have swayed too many innocent American minds. They have clearly demonstrated their power today by forcing a private citizen to be interviewed by the House Managers under threat of imprisonment according to her agreement with the OIC (who is now acting as a 14th House Manager). They will insist on closed door sessions for the debates regarding dismissal and witnesses and muscle the Senate in the very same way they succeeded in the Congress. The bottom line is, the Democrats want an up or down vote now, and the Republicans want to drag this on and keep the government in a state of paralysis so they can continue to humiliate the President.

They worked so hard at making war that they forgot how to make peace. They drew their line in the sand and it can't even be washed away by the tide of public outrage. The longer this goes on, the more ground we all lose, and still the President's approval ratings continue to rise. I say, NOW is the time to get over it and get back to doing our jobs. We have wasted too much time already in not representing the interests of our public. We must make peace among the parties and the branches of our government and get back to work on the PEOPLE'S agenda of education, social security reform, Medicare, the Patient's Bill of Rights, housing, anti-crime, and other issues that are important to the people who put us here to serve them.

CONGRATULATIONS TO
WAXAHACHIE HIGH SCHOOL AND
ENNIS HIGH SCHOOL

HON. MARTIN FROST

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 11, 1999

Mr. FROST. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Waxahachie High School in Waxahachie, Texas and Ennis High School in Ennis, Texas. Both of these schools were recently recognized by U.S. News & World Report magazine as two of the top 96 high schools in the entire country. I am pleased to represent these excellent schools in Congress.

Waxahachie and Ennis each met the magazine's rigorous criteria for "outstanding" schools. The magazine found that outstanding schools share several characteristics, including a challenging core curriculum, high expectations of the students, highly qualified teachers, effective training for new teachers, strong academic standards and expectations, strong parental involvement and support, teachers and administrators who know their students well, and high levels of student attendance.

Both of these North Texas high schools represent the best in public education. Congratu-

lations to Waxahachie High School Principal John Aune and Ennis High School Principal Linda Pirtle and the faculty, parents, and students of both schools for attaining this tremendous recognition.

I hope the standard of excellence set by Waxahachie and Ennis High Schools will serve as an example to schools across Texas and across the country. These outstanding schools are proof positive that if we hold our students and educators to high standards, they will achieve academic excellence.

A TRIBUTE TO SAN DIEGO POLICE CHIEF JERRY SANDERS

HON. RANDY "DUKE" CUNNINGHAM

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 11, 1999

Mr. CUNNINGHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the career and record of one of San Diego's finest citizens and my friend, Police Chief Jerry Sanders. On April 15, Chief Sanders will leave the San Diego Police Department to become President and CEO of the United Way of San Diego County.

During his tenure, crime rates in San Diego have fallen to 25 year lows. This tremendous achievement has been made possible only through the hard work, dedication to duty and personal sacrifice of the entire San Diego Police Department.

His community policing program is recognized as a model for American police forces, and for safer communities around the world. He will take with him a remarkable ability to integrate local community volunteers into the police force structure to help combat crime. And it is this trait which will ensure his success in his new role at the United Way.

I submit for the record an article from the January 13, 1999, San Diego Union Tribune which further describes Chief Sanders' outstanding achievements.

While Chief Sanders will be sorely missed at our Police Department, all citizens of San Diego should take comfort that he will continue to use his remarkable talents to better our community.

I want to thank Chief Sanders for his service to our fine city, and wish the best of success in meeting his new opportunity to continue serving our community through the United Way.

[From the San Diego Union Tribune, Jan. 13, 1999]

SAN DIEGO POLICE CHIEF WILL BE STEPPING
DOWN

HE'LL BECOME LEADER OF UNITED WAY HERE

(By Kelly Thornton)

It was a nagging voice inside Jerry Sanders, telling him he had lost too much time with his young daughters to 75-hour work weeks and phone calls in the middle of the night.

Sanders, San Diego's beloved and nationally renowned police chief for almost six years, announced his retirement yesterday to stunned colleagues during an emotional meeting at police headquarters.

The 48-year-old chief, who joined the department 26 years ago and at 42 became the department's youngest top cop, said he will step down April 15 to become president and chief executive officer of United Way of San Diego County.

"It was by far the most difficult decision of my life, bar none," said a teary-eyed Sanders at a news conference at United Way headquarters. The ever-affable chief, not usually one for formality, prepared remarks and distributed a videotaped message to his troops to avoid an emotional outburst.

"I got a little choked up and it was hard to read," Sanders said. "I think a lot of people are in shock. There was a stunned silence after I told them."

Sanders said his decision was not related to health problems, although he has struggled with digestive ailments and gout.

"I look forward to spending time with my wife and daughters," Sanders said, looking at photos of Jamie, 12, and Lisa, 15, when they were young. "I haven't seen a lot in between."

Sanders' decision was a well-kept secret. He called mayor Susan Golding, City Manager Michael Uberuaga and District Attorney Paul Pfingst early yesterday to inform them. He confided only in his wife and four friends.

Everybody else was in the dark.

Capt. Adolfo Gonzales, who attended Sanders' morning meeting, said it took a moment for the words to sink in. "I was stunned. When he asked if there were any questions, you could hear a pin drop in the room. . . . We as captains didn't have a clue."

Mayor Golding praised Sanders for bringing the community and police officers closer together. "He's done an unqualifiedly superb job as police chief and I will miss him. . . . He is genuinely loved within the community and by members of the police force, and that's rare accomplishment," Golding said.

Sanders will not be able to collect retirement until he turns 50 on July 14, 2000. At that time, he will be eligible to receive 65 percent of his annual \$128,004 salary—less than if he had remained with the department until age 50, said Lawrence Griffom, city retirement director.

As head of the United Way, Sanders will receive \$165,000 a year.

Sanders was recruited by other police departments before he was approached by United Way in October. He interviewed for the job in December and was officially offered the position yesterday. The chance to continue working with the community outside of law enforcement was "an opportunity I couldn't pass up," he said.

City Manager Uberuaga was already preparing yesterday to select a recruiting firm to conduct a national search for Sanders' replacement, though he and Golding said members of the department are encouraged to apply. The city manager will make a recommendation to the City Council, which must confirm the selection.

Among the most likely contenders for the job of overseeing 2,058 sworn officers and more than 1,000 civilians and reserve officers are assistant chiefs George Saldamando and Rulette Armstead, who competed with Sanders for the post in 1993, and David Bejarano, considered by many in the department to be a front-runner.

Bejarano coordinated security for the 1996 Republican National Convention, the 1998 Super Bowl and the recent World Series.

Whoever is chosen will have big shoes to fill.

Under Sanders' tenure, crime rates fell to their lowest levels in 25 years, mirroring a nationwide trend. The ranks of volunteers swelled to unprecedented levels. The entire beat system was restructured so that areas are patrolled as 21 communities, rather than 68 arbitrarily drawn sections.

But Sanders' legacy will be his work as a pioneer of community-oriented policing, the philosophy that pairs residents with officers and other city agencies, such as code enforcers, to fight crime.